

Recommendations regarding \$1 Million in Lottery funds

In the last legislative session, up to \$1 Million was appropriated for homeless services. HB 2786 reads as follows:

*Of the monies remaining in the state lottery fund each fiscal year after appropriations and deposits authorized in subsections a through f of this section, one million dollars or the remaining balance in the fund, whichever is less, is appropriated to the department of economic security for grants to nonprofit organizations, including faith based organizations, for **homeless emergency and transitional shelters and related support services**. The department of economic security shall submit a report on the amounts, recipients, purposes and results of each grant to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate on or before December 31 of each year for the prior fiscal year and shall provide a copy of this report to the secretary of state and the director of the Arizona state library, archives and public records.*

Through an online survey, DES collected feedback from stakeholders regarding priorities for the funding and methods of distribution. The survey was developed by the Chairs of the three Continua of Care (CoC) and DES Staff. It was open September 27, 2007 to November 30, 2007. The following recommendations are based on the results of this survey:

1. **Funding allocations will be based on each CoC's proportion of the state's total number of individuals in poverty as estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau. If necessary, the Co-Chairs of the Rural CoC will be responsible for determining allocations to each county within the Continuum.**
2. **In Maricopa County, 35% of the allocation will be designated for Transitional Housing, 35% for Emergency Shelter, and 30% for "Housing Placement Services."**
3. **In Pima County, 31% of the allocation will be designated for Transitional Housing, 35% for Emergency Shelter, and 34% for "Housing Placement Services."**
4. **In the Rural Continuum, 36% of the allocation will be designated for Transitional Housing, 34% for Emergency Shelter, and 30% for "Case Management/Outreach."**
5. **For the service of Emergency Shelter for Maricopa and Pima Counties, additional bed nights will be purchased from the providers currently contracting with DES.**
6. **For the service of Emergency Shelter for the Rural Continuum, a solicitation will be offered through SPIRIT, the DES online procurement system.**
7. **For the service of Transitional Housing, additional bed nights will be purchased from the providers currently contracting with DES. No solicitation will be offered.**
8. **For the service of Housing Placement Services for Maricopa and Pima Counties, a solicitation will be offered through SPIRIT, the online procurement system. The funding available for each continuum will be based on the CoC's proportion of persons in poverty statewide (recommendation 1) and the percentage allocated for that service and county (recommendations 2 and 3).**
9. **For the service of Case Management/Outreach, a solicitation will be offered through SPIRIT, the online procurement system, for the rural counties only. The funding available for the Continuum will be based on the CoC's proportion of persons in poverty statewide (recommendation 1) and the percentage allocated for that service and county (recommendations 2 and 3).**

Survey Results Summary

Maricopa County

36 responses

New funding priorities:

35% TH

35% ES

30% Support services

Support service priorities:

1. Housing placement services
2. Case management
3. Prevention

Comments:

"I would suggest that we do not duplicate the services already being provided by the Continuum of Care but utilize the funding for gaps in services, specifically Overflow Shelter Services and Permanent Supportive Housing."

"While the emphasis of HUD Continuum of Care funding is creation of more permanent housing and ancillary activities, such as street counts, data management, prevention, etc., this funding should be for maintaining emergency shelter and transitional housing."

"Providers who have coped with cuts and many years of "level funding" should be given priority for new dollars. If new/pilot projects are to be sought, look to established agencies who have the infrastructure in place to make sure the maximum dollars go to the people in need. Consider longer term (one year) rent subsidies to assist families to get out of shelters and into affordable housing."

"Collectively and collaboratively, the community needs to address the root causes (like affordable housing) and develop solutions. Providing emergency shelter and food is needed, but is not enough."

"We need to take a look at the whole entire homeless system and implement idea's to provide an opportunity for success to the next level of survival which is poverty. Our biggest problem is that the average homeless can only go so far in the system. We need to make a bridge for those homeless who are willing to do their part in getting off the streets."

"The lack of emergency shelter for single women without children is appalling. Women have to either be abused, have a substance abuse problem, pregnant or have a child to be assisted with shelter. There are single women without children of all ages that fall into this category. We need to address this problem and find a solution."

"Agency who have continued DES cuts in contracts and need to have funds restored to perserve capacity. Reward programs that take the tough families and individuals and programs that do not require families and individuals to leave during the day. Programs that have positive outcomes should be given priority. Not to fund new programs until current contractors have adequate funding."

"The real issue around homelessness relates to the lack of affordable housing, living wage employment, and transportation issues. providing shelter is important and essential, but we have to have more options for those leaving our programs in terms of housing and employment."

"The only priority should be to stabilize funding for the existing DES funded agencies emergency and transitional programs and the supportive services (case management) that are mandated as part of DES' contracts before new programs or non direct services programs (coordination, data management, etc. - HMIS

should get no more funding in light of the current return on the investment!) are added. The second priority should be housing first supportive services although the funding available is insufficient to have much impact in that regard.”

“Emergency shelters and transitional housing without focus on Housing First and affordable housing are simply band-aids. There are too many individuals and families cycling in and out of our programs without finding permanent housing. Furthermore, until we make this a truly competitive process, we won't see positive change.”

“The homeless population that I have the most concern for is our children. The people that need the most are them, the elderly and the sick and they should receive priority even though everyone is important. Sometimes a homeless person becomes that way due to something out of their control and they are more helpless such as the three groups I mentioned and certainly children don't get a choice.”

“Support services to the homeless are a critical piece of the plan to prevent and improvement upon homelessness. Many funding grants are pushing away the support services and focusing on housing only, however, without the support services to help stabilize the individuals situations and assist in obtaining a secure income, the cycle of homelessness will continue. Support services are the foundation of services for homeless prevention. Shelter is the band aid, transitional housing is more security and support services is the adhesive tape that holds both together to help improve and sustain a better quality of life for the individual. Without support services to help change and improve on circumstances, shelters will always be full with the same people. All three are critical components of the whole picture of homeless prevention and improvement of quality of life.”

Pima County

12 responses

New funding priorities:

31% TH

35% ES

34% Support services

Support service priorities:

1. Housing placement services
2. Case management
3. Outreach

Comments:

“My responses reflect my thought that the funds should go to services that are not currently funded through other sources or which are unfunded from other sources, especially support services.”

“Can DES fund a ‘Respite’ housing project with these funds?”

“Tucson will never be able to serve its residents properly when so many people (2300) are on the streets in our city and are consequently heavily utilizing available services and contributing to crime. We are doing all we can do with our limited resources to promote the building of another emergency shelter in Pima County. Our Hope Center will have room for men, women, and families so they may remain intact. It will have a wide range of ON SITE services and be staffed primarily with volunteers from many Tucson congregations. Excellence will be our standard. These people are too precious to be treated otherwise.”

“There is a huge need for housing/support services for the serial inebriate population. Sonora House is the only program in Tucson willing to work with this population.”

Rural Counties

83 responses

New funding priorities:

36% TH

34% ES

30% Support services

Support service priorities:

1. Case management
2. Prevention
3. Housing placement services

Comments:

"Please look at communities which have few or no services for the homeless, particularly in the rural areas. In Globe, there is a new faith based entity which is reaching out to the homeless here. This is the only homeless shelter that has been here in the 7 years that I have lived here. The name is New Creations in Christ Ministries, 376 N. Broad Street, Globe, AZ 85501, 928-425-0969. Please consider funding for new shelters in areas which have not traditionally had shelters. In the past, people would be given a Greyhound bus ticket to either Phoenix or Tucson to access homeless shelters. However, Greyhound no longer comes here, transportation is a major obstacle for many people here, and getting to a metropolitan city from Globe is very difficult. It would be good to see some funding coming to the rural areas where most services are few and far between. We always hear of funding and contributions to places in the metropolitan areas, but rarely hear of anything in the rural areas. Please consider funding in these areas. Maybe looking at the percentage of people in poverty would be a way to make things more equitable rather than population counts"

"Here in this county, and in fact in other rural counties near us, organizations like ours (blending transitional housing with cutting edge treatment for homeless women) are failing to get any funded referrals from the one and only mental health treatment referral funding source in this area, SEABHS. Additionally, SEABHS seems to have a lock on other funding sources that come into this area. SEABHS's desire to monopolize funding is understandable, when you take into consideration the fact that they offer treatment, also (though it is predominantly out-patient, so does not service homeless women as our program does), and when you consider SEABHS's 2 million dollar salary budgetary shortfall this year. Also, it does not hurt to mention that SEABHS shares many board members with CPSA, the regional behavioral health administrator through which SEABHS gets all Title 19 monies that SEABHS is supposed to distribute fairly but to my mind doesn't. Now, I realize that you are only interested in our transitional housing aspect, which is fine. And I am writing to you now to THANK YOU for that. Right now, it is one of the few funding streams available to us, and we appreciate it. This is also simply something you may wish to consider for why rural areas down here and transitional housing programs like ours eagerly hope for Equal Distribution. Rightly or wrongly, we believe that the climate in Maricopa County offers more and more fair funding opportunities for transitional housing programs like ours."

"Should include operation and leasing \$"

"Outreach is so important in the rural areas and there is no funding for this activity outside of Flagstaff. Presumptive eligibility for citizenship to be able to get food stamps & AHCCCS while waiting to get ID from other states."

"Please place more focus on rural issues and concern."

"Funds should be prioritized to those areas who have little or no services available."